

Claims

1. Liquid crystal display which enables a visual detection of defective segments having a first and a second plate which face one another and a liquid crystalline substance located in the space between the first and second plate, the first plate being transparent and having essentially transparent conductive segments in a display area to represent symbols and the second plate being conductive at least in certain regions, wherein the first plate has at least one conductive inverse segment which fills out the area surrounding at least one of the segments used to represent symbols.
2. Liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, wherein an electrical potential is applied separately to the segments and to the at least one inverse segment.
3. Liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second plate has conductive segments whose shape and size essentially correspond to the segments of the first plate and which are arranged such that they are opposite corresponding segments.
4. Liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second plate has an inverse segment whose shape and size essentially corresponds to that of the inverse segment of the first plate.

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5. Liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second plate and its conductive regions are transparent.
6. Liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second plate is either reflective or a reflecting layer is located behind the second plate.
7. Liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, which has two polarizers between which the liquid crystalline substance is disposed.
8. System for displaying symbols which enables a visual detection of defective segments comprising a liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1 and an actuation device for selectively activating the segments and the at least one inverse segment.
9. System as claimed in claim 8, in which the actuation device jointly activates all segments and the at least one inverse segment for a time interval so that an observer can detect segments that may have failed by their inverse appearance in relation to the at least one inverse segment.
10. System as claimed in claim 8, with a switch which can initiate a joint activation of all segments and the at least one inverse segment.
11. Method for operating a liquid crystal display as claimed in claim 1, comprising the following steps:

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- a) joint activation of all segments of the first plate and of the at least one inverse segment for a first time interval to enable an observer to detect failed segments by their inverse appearance in relation to the at least one inverse segment,
- b) displaying symbols with the liquid crystal display.
12. Method as claimed in claim 11, in which the display area appears dark when carrying out step a) and defective signals stand out bright.
13. Method as claimed in claim 11, in which the display area appears bright when carrying out step a) and defective signals stand out dark.
14. Method as claimed in claim 11, in which the symbols are displayed in step b) by activating the segments to be displayed, and the segments that are not to be displayed and the at least one inverse segment remain inactivated.
15. Method as claimed in claim 11, in which symbols are displayed in step b) by activating the segments that are not to be displayed and all existing inverse segments.

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